

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MAYOR AND COUNCIL
OF THE BOROUGH OF FRANKLIN
HELD AT THE FRANKLIN MUNICIPAL BUILDING
46 MAIN STREET, FRANKLIN, NJ
OCTOBER 22, 2024**

Mayor Sowden called the meeting to order and requested the Borough Clerk to call the roll. Upon roll call, the following members of the Governing Body were present: Mrs. Carnes, Mr. Formica, Mrs. Heath, Mr. Limon, Mr. Skellenger, Mr. Snyder and Mayor Sowden.

Absent: None

Mayor Sowden led the assembly in the flag salute.

Mayor Sowden stated "This meeting is being held in compliance with the provisions of the Open Public Meetings Act, N.J.S.A. 10:4-6 et sequentes. It has been properly advertised by posting in Borough Hall and printed in the New Jersey Herald/Sunday New Jersey Herald on January 7, 2024, and posted on the Borough website, which adequate notice has been certified by the Clerk."

PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations for tonight's meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mrs. Heath commented that recreation is having a comedy show on November 2, 2024, at the Franklin Firehouse. Halloween parade and party on October 26, 2024. The Christmas tree lighting was discussed, and the boy scouts do photos with Santa. The Recreation Committee decided not to have the holiday lighting contest this year due to a low turnout. The mayor received the Municipal Award from the Sussex County Economic Development Partnership.

Mr. Skellenger commented that he is still waiting for the hydrogeologist to get back to him regarding some of the properties that are on the list for auction.

Mr. Formica commented that he met with Darlene and Amanda from the Wildlife Services. She explained the various options for moving forward. I received a quote for the fence at the basketball court, 61 feet long and 6 feet high for \$4,110.

Mr. Limon commented that paving notices went out to residents. Mr. Limon thanked Darlene for answering the commissioner on 7 Lozaw Road. A Public Works meeting will be scheduled for November 4th or 11th.

Mrs. Carnes had nothing to report.

Mr. Snyder had nothing to report.

Mrs. Tremont commented that we received the 3rd quarter tax payment from Ascend in the amount of \$447,506.23. The culvert headwall at Rutherford Ave needs the pipes TV'd before Stefanie can provide a cost estimate. The removal of the wall paper and the painting in the stairwells at Borough Hall has begun.

Mr. Ursin had nothing to report.

Mayor Sowden commented that he and Rachel attended a luncheon for Sussex County Economic Development where we received the Municipal Award. The Municipal Award is an award to a municipality and/or municipal leader that serves as a strong business proponent by providing business, attractions and retention incentives and/or business friendly attitude and service.

OPEN PUBLIC SESSION

Mr. Snyder made a motion to open the meeting to the public for anyone wishing to address the Governing Body. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger. All were in favor.

Joanne Tatka stepped forward. Ms. Tatka asked about sending out a newsletter again.

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Eve Soares stepped forward. Ms. Soares asked where the results can be found from the soil testing on the Zinc Mine [property]. There is a lot of proposed development in the town, and I know that currently right now we are in drought conditions; does the borough do anything pertaining to these conditions. The sidewalks on Junction Street look great. The one end is not graded down to the roadway. Are there any requirements for keeping the historical architectural/integrity.

There being no one else present who wished to address the Governing Body, Mr. Skellenger made a motion to close the meeting to the public, seconded by Mr. Snyder. All were in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Sowden requested that all persons present review the consent agenda and offer any comments they may have at this time regarding the consent agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING ONLY OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Township of Hardyston ordinance amending and modifying chapter 185 “zoning”, article xxv “stormwater management”.
2. Borough of Hamburg ordinance amending chapter 215 zoning

REPORTS (ACCEPTANCE FOR FILING OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Municipal Court Report – September 2024
2. COH Report – September 2024
3. Construction Permit List – September 2024
4. Construction Permit Activity Report – September 2024
5. Police Department Report – September 2024
6. Registrar Report – July through September 2024
7. DPW Report – September 23 – September 27

APPLICATIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. None filed.

RESOLUTIONS (APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING):

1. Payment of bills for the meeting of October 22, 2024.

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the consent agenda of October 22, 2024. Seconded by Mr. Limon.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business for tonight’s portion of the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to adopt the regular meeting minutes and executive session minutes for October 8, 2024. (Absent: Heath) Seconded by Mrs. Carnes,

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Heath

Resolution 2024-107

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-107 authorizing the Municipal Court to escheat interest balances in the bail account. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

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Resolution 2024-108

Mrs. Carnes made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-108 authorizing the Municipal Court to escheat interest balances in the general account. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-109

Mr. Formica made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-109 authorizing the appointment of a business administrator. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Resolution 2024-110

Mrs. Heath made a motion to adopt resolution 2024-110 authorizing the hiring of Sandi Cowan as deputy municipal clerk and deputy registrar effective November 1, 2024 at an annual salary of \$43,000. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

2024 Best Practices Inventory

Mr. Snyder made a motion to accept the 2024 best practices inventory prepared by the CFO and Administrator/Clerk as required by the Division of Local Government Services. Seconded by Mr. Skellenger.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Limon, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: None

Approval of NJ State Firemen's Association Membership Application

Mr. Skellenger made a motion to approve the application for membership of Kenneth Hayes, 49 Edison Ave, Ogdensburg, as Firematic member to the Franklin Fire Department as endorsed by Corey Houghtaling, Franklin Fire Department [Assistant] Chief. Seconded by Mr. Formica.

Upon roll call vote:

Ayes: Carnes, Formica, Heath, Skellenger, Snyder

Nays: None Absent: None Abstentions: Limon

Discussion on Main Street Parking Lot

Ms. Tremont commented that she has spoken to Stefanie regarding the Main Street parking lot and she has informed her that the sinking area in question can be done by digging out and testing the soil which would be less costly. In order to move forward, we need to have a council member liaison to work with Stefanie on behalf of the council so this way she can move forward with any questions as opposed to constantly coming to either her or a council meeting. Ms. Tremont asked to designate a council member to work with Stefanie. It was the consensus of the council to have Mr. Formica be the liaison to work with Stefanie.

Discussion on MS4 Stormwater Mapping program

Ms. Tremont commented that we went for a Highlands Grant to help with funding for the mapping program for the stormwater management. We unfortunately did not receive it. I am bringing forward the proposal that was given to us previously; some of the work in the proposal has been done already and we used some of the stormwater grant funds we already received through the State. The mapping was supposed to be done back in July and the NJDEP has given leeway to municipalities because they knew municipalities were trying obtain funding. Now we are at the

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point where NJDEP is starting to strong arm the engineers and municipalities. We are at the point where this needs to be addressed to have something put in place for next year. The mapping itself should take approximately 1 week, from what I understand from Stefanie. Remember the numbers in the proposals are from May so the numbers will probably change. I would like to be able to provide direction to Stefanie so that we don't have any problems with NJDEP requirements. The mapping portion deadline was July and now the deadline is January. I will speak with the CFO about budgeting for this in 2025.

Mr. Formica asked if we could have VanCleeef Engineering and French & Parello give a quote for both.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS

Mr. Snyder asked about the striping of the roads.

Ms. Tremont commented that the areas need to be reviewed and can possibly be included in conjunction with the paving schedule. Ms. Tremont will reach out to Brian, Jesse and Stefanie to discuss the striping.

Mr. Snyder asked if time could be added in between the events on the electronic sign.

Ms. Tremont commented that the field use form was approved by recreation with the Attorney's revisions. Does the council need to vote to accept?

Mr. Ursin commented that it is recreations form and no council vote is needed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further items for discussion by the Mayor and Council, Mr. Snyder made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43p.m., seconded by Mrs. Carnes. All were in favor.

John M. Sowden IV, Mayor

Darlene J. Tremont, Municipal Clerk